AMENDMENT

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listing and versions thereof:

1. (Canceled) Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody preparation, for example a monoclonal antibody, with specificity to a phosphorylcholine conjugate, in the manufacture of a medicament for immunization and treatment of humans against atherosclerosis or an atherosclerotic related disease.

2. (Currently amended) A method for immunization and treatment of a human against atherosclerosis or an atherosclerotic related disease, the method comprising the step of administering to the human a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody preparation~~, for example a monoclonal antibody,~~ with specificity to a phosphorylcholine conjugate.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~use of claim 1 or~~ method of claim 2 wherein ~~the medicament is for administration by injection or wherein~~ the composition is administered by injection.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~use or~~ method of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 2, wherein the phosphorylcholine is linked to a carrier via a spacer.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~use or~~ method according to claim 2~~claim 4~~, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate is linked to a protein carrier, optionally via a spacer ~~is a protein~~.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~use or~~ method according to claim 5, wherein the protein is KLH (keyhole limpet hemocyanin) or human serum albumin (HSA).

7. (Currently amended) The ~~use or~~ method according to claim 4, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate comprises phosphorylcholine linked to a latex bead, optionally via a spacer ~~carrier is latex beads~~.

8. (Currently amended) A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a human being suffering from atherosclerosis or facing the risk of developing ischemic cardiovascular disease, whereby a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody preparation~~, for example a monoclonal antibody,~~ with specificity to a phosphorylcholine conjugate is administered.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a phosphorylcholine conjugate in a~~A method for assessing a human patient's risk of developing or progression of cardiovascular disease ~~in which the~~comprising assessing said patient's levels of antibodies reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate ~~are assessed~~, wherein low levels of antibody reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate are predictive of the occurrence of cardiovascular disease in a healthy human patient.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method of claim 9, wherein the cardiovascular disease is ischemic cardiovascular disease.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method of claim 9, wherein the cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method of ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~claim 9, wherein the patient's levels of IgM antibodies reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate are assessed.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method of ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~claim 9, wherein the patient's levels of IgG antibodies reactive with the phosphorylcholine conjugate are assessed.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 9 to 13~~The method of claim 9, wherein phosphorylcholine is linked to a carrier via a spacer.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to claim 14~~The method of claim 9, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate comprises-phosphorylcholine linked to a protein carrier, optionally via a spacer~~carrier is a protein~~.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to claim 15~~The method of claim 15, wherein the protein is KLH (keyhole limpet hemocyanin) or human serum albumin (HSA).

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to claim 14~~The method of claim 9, wherein the phosphorylcholine conjugate comprises-phosphorylcholine linked to a latex bead, optionally via a spacer ~~carrier is latex beads~~.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 9 to 17~~The method of claim 9, wherein the assay is an immunoassay.

19. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said antibody preparation is a monoclonal antibody preparation.

20. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said antibody preparation is a monoclonal antibody preparation.